

16. A system for the display of symbols which enables a visual recognition of defective segments, comprising:

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a liquid crystal display having a first and a second plate which face one another and a liquid crystalline substance located in the space between the first and second plate, the first plate being transparent and having essentially transparent conductive segments in a display area to represent symbols and the second plate being conductive at least in the regions that are opposite to the segments of the first plate, and the first plate has at least one conductive inverse segment which fills out the area surrounding at least one of the segments used to represent symbols;

an actuation device for the selective activation of the segments and of the at least one inverse segment which for a time interval, allows simultaneous activation of the segments and of the at least one inverse segment so that it is possible to recognize segments that may have failed by their inverse appearance relative to the at least one inverse segment.

17. The system of claim 16 wherein an electrical potential is applied separately to the segments and to the at least one inverse segment.
18. The system of claim 16 wherein the shape and size of the regions on the second plate essentially correspond to the segments of the first plate and the regions are arranged such that they are opposite corresponding segments.

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19. The system of claim 16 wherein the second plate has at least one inverse segment the shape and size of which essentially corresponds to that of the at least one inverse segment of the first plate.
20. The system of claim 16 wherein the second plate and its conductive regions are transparent.
21. The system of claim 16 wherein the second plate is reflective or a reflecting layer is located behind the second plate.
22. The system of claim 16 further comprising two polarizers between which the liquid crystalline substance is disposed.
23. The system of claim 16 further comprising a switch which can initiate a joint activation of the segments and of the at least one inverse segment.
24. A method for operating a liquid crystal display which enables visual recognition of defective segments, using a liquid crystal display having a first and a second plate which face one another and a liquid crystalline substance located in the space between the first and second plate, the first plate being transparent and having essentially transparent conductive segments in a display area to represent symbols and the second plate being conductive at least in the regions that are opposite to the segments of the first plate, and the first plate has at least one conductive inverse segment which fills out the area surrounding at least one of the segments used to represent symbols, comprising:

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- a) jointly activating all segments of the first plate and of the at least one inverse segment for a first time interval to enable an observer to detect failed segments by their inverse appearance relative to the at least one inverse segment; and
- b) displaying symbols with the liquid crystal display.

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- 25. The method of claim 24 wherein the display area appears dark when carrying out step a) and defective signals stand out bright.
 - 26. The method of claim 24 wherein the display area appears bright when carrying out step a) and defective signals stand out dark.
 - 27. The method of claim 24 wherein the symbols are displayed in step b) by activating the segments to be displayed, and the segments that are not to be displayed and the at least one inverse segment remain inactivated.
 - 28. The method of claim 24 wherein symbols are displayed in step b) by activating the segments that are not to be displayed and all existing inverse segments.
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